

## LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Previously Presented) A downhole deployment valve (DDV) system, comprising:

a tubular string within a wellbore, the tubular string having a valve member for selectively obstructing a flow path through a bore of the tubular string; and

an object stopping assembly for stopping an object falling toward the valve member prior to the object contacting the valve member, the object stopping assembly selectively movable between a first position where the bore proximate the object stopping assembly has an inside diameter and a second position where the bore proximate the object stopping assembly has a smaller inside diameter.

2. (Original) The DDV system of claim 1, wherein the assembly comprises at least one stop member selectively movable to at least partially obstruct the bore.

3. (Withdrawn) The DDV system of claim 1, wherein the assembly comprises a diverter disposed above the valve member, the diverter movable between an open position and a diverting position.

4. (Withdrawn) The DDV system of claim 1, wherein the assembly comprises an upward opening flapper member.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Original) The DDV system of claim 1, further comprising an actuator member that actuates both the valve member and the assembly.

8. (Original) The DDV system of claim 1, further comprising a control line that substantially simultaneously supplies fluid pressure to an actuator for the valve member and an actuator for the assembly.

9. (Original) The DDV system of claim 1, further comprising a shock attenuating material above the valve member.

10. – 23. (Cancelled)

24. (Previously Presented) A downhole deployment valve (DDV) system, comprising:

- a valve member for selectively obstructing a flow path through a bore of a tubular string;

- a barrier member disposed at a location above the valve member, the barrier member selectively movable between a retracted position and an extended position to impede an object falling toward the valve member prior to the object contacting the valve member; and

- a biasing member operatively attached to the barrier member.

25. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 24, wherein the barrier member is biased in the retracted position by the biasing member.

26. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 24, wherein the barrier member is movable in response to movement of a mandrel having a cone member.

27. (Currently Amended) A method of using a downhole deployment valve (DDV) in a wellbore, comprising:

- positioning an object stopping assembly at a location above the downhole deployment valve;

- dropping an object in the wellbore; and

actuating the object stopping assembly, thereby slowing the rate of descent of the object as it approaches a closed downhole deployment valve by using the object stopping assembly.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, wherein the downhole deployment valve is closed and the object stopping assembly is actuated substantially simultaneously.

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, wherein the object stopping assembly is a barrier.

31. (Cancelled)

Please add the following new claims:

32. (New) A method of using a downhole deployment valve (DDV) in a wellbore, comprising:

positioning an object stopping assembly at a location above the downhole deployment valve;

dropping an object in the wellbore; and

slowing the rate of descent of the object as it approaches a closed downhole deployment valve by using the object stopping assembly, wherein the downhole deployment valve is closed and the object stopping assembly is actuated by fluid pressure supplied to a control line common to the valve member and the object stopping assembly.

33. (New) A method of using a downhole deployment valve (DDV) in a wellbore, comprising:

positioning an object stopping assembly at a location above the downhole deployment valve;

dropping an object in the wellbore;

moving the object stopping assembly from a retracted position to an extended position; and

slowing the rate of decent of the object as it approaches a closed downhole deployment valve by using the object stopping assembly.